ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe and claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1-19 remain in this application.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Sawahashi et al. (U.S. 5,590,409). For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites that a "transmission power control bit" is used such that a "transmission power control range changer...changes a transmission power control range corresponding to the transmission power control bit based on the detected communication state". Claim 10 recites a step using similar language at lines 10-13. The cited reference does not teach these limitations of claims 1 or 10.

Sawahashi teaches a transmission power control bit that corresponds only to a single range, as is typical in the art. Hence, the power interval represented by a power change performed according to the transmission power control bit is always constant. There is no teaching in the reference that the power step change corresponding to the transmission power control bit can be varied. Instead, Sawahashi teaches operating its device using the predefined range of the transmission power control bit to control the device transmission power, unless the ΔRSSI is less than or equal to a ΔP_{th}, at which point the transmission power is set according to the ΔRSSI, not according to the transmission power control bit interval (see Fig. 4, items S3-S5, and accompanying text; See also col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 67).

Accordingly, there are two possible power changes taught by Sawahashi. Either the power is steped at the interval set for the transmission power control bit, or a new power setting is calculated according to the ΔRSSI, irrespective of the transmission power control bit setting. Which is chosen depends on the measured power. However, there is no teaching that the transmission power control bit *range* can be changed. As recited in the cited claims, the power

control range is varied according to the communication state, and the transmission power control bit is utilized regardless of the state. Instead, the power control *range* (e.g., the power step size) is varied, and the transmission power control bit is associated with that new range. The reference does not teach any such capability Consequently, those claims are patentable over the reference.

The remaining claims in this case depend on one or both of claims 1 and 10, and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons as the parent claim.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33220.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 6-3-04